

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 CU-05

FS-01 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 PPT-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 091630Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2285

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS AMSTERDAM 430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, ETRN, NL

SUBJ: STRANDEES AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT - EDUCATIONAL FLIGHTS

REF : A. STATE 166549

B.THE HAGUE 3734

1. OVER LAST TWO WEEKS, FOUR ACCIDENTS, EACH INVOLVING 80 TO 150 AMERICAN CITIZENS BEING LEFT STRANDED, HAVE OCCURRED AT AMSTERDAM'S SCHIPHOL AIRPORT. THESE SITUATIONS DEVELOPED AS RESULT OF TRANSAVIA REFUSING PASSAGE ON CHARTER FLIGHTS. TRANSAVIA'S ACTION BASED ON ITS CONCERN THAT CAB WOULD LEVY FINES AGAINST IT FOR THOSE PASSENGERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR SUCH TRANSPORTATION. ALMOST ALL PASSENGERS APPEARED TO HAVE BOOKED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FLIGHTS FROM EDUCATIONAL FLIGHTS (NOT EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE AS REPORTED IN REF B). APPARENTLY, AGENTS INVOLVED REARRANGED RETURN TRIPS ONCE PASSENGERS ARRIVED IN EUROPE. TO ACCOMMODATE PASSENGERS (AND TO FACILITATE SELLING TICKETS) AGENTS FIXED RETURN OF INDIVIDUALS ON DATES AND FLIGHTS OTHER THAN THOSE GIVEN TO CAB ON ORIGINAL MANIFEST. MANY PASSENGERS WERE GIVEN NO WESTBOUND TICKETS OR RECEIPTS, ONLY PHONE NUMBERS TO CALL ORIGINALLY IN LONDON AND LATER IN AMSTERDAM.

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2. ALL STRANDEES KNOWN TO CONGEN WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO US ON DAY OF STRANDING OR FOLLOWING DAY. IN A FEW INSTANCES STRANDEES PURCHASED FULLFARE TICKETS AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. IN OTHER INSTANCES ORIGINAL TRAVEL AGENT PURCHASED FULLFARE TICKETS. MANY RETURNED ON DUTCH CIVIL AIR APPROVED PANAM-KLM RESCUE FARE OF DLS.200. SOME BONA FIDE STUDENTS RETURNED VIA LOW-COST STUDENT CHARTERS. TWO STRANDEES REQUIRED REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE VIA STREAMLINED REPATRIATION PROCEDURES (REF.A).

3. CONGEN PROVIDED, TO BEST ITS ABILITY, ALL CONSULAR SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDED HAVING PERSONNEL AT AIRPORT UNTIL LATE IN EVENING OF EACH OF FIVE DAYS.

4. ALMOST ALL STRANDEES IN LAST TWO ACCIDENTS FILLED OUT DEPT S PRESCRIBED QUESTIONNAIRE REQUESTING DATA OR AGENTS, FLIGHTS ETC. FORMS NOTARIZED BY CONSULAR OFFICER WHO ADMINISTERD OATH NOW BEING FORWARDED TO CAB WITH COPIES TO DEPT., AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE, AND DUTCH CIVIL AIR.

5. CONGEN FACES PROSPECT OF AT LEAST FIVE MORE POTENTIAL STRANDEE SITUATIONS THIS MONTH: AUGUST 12, 22, 26, 27 AND 29.

6. POST WILL FORWARD AIRGRAM CONTAINING DETAILED ANALYSIS OF EVENTS AT LATER DATE.

7. CONGEN APPRECIATES ASSISTANCE DEPT. AND CAB HAVE GIVEN TO DATE.
DAVIT

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